



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE AGENTS ARREST PROMINENT CANADIAN BUSINESSMAN ON SEX CHARGES

Canadian Man Expected to Meet a 13 Year Old Girl in Massena, New York

MASSENA, N.Y – Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents this afternoon arrested a prominent Canadian businessman on charges that he traveled to the United States to have sex with a 13 year old girl.

Normand Corno, 49 of New Brunswick traveled from his home in Edmundston to the Massena area thinking he was going to meet the young girl.

Corno came to the attention of ICE special agents during an undercover operation. He made arrangements to travel to Massena in order to meet the girl and have sex. He is charged with traveling to the United States with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct, which is a violation of 18 USC Section 2423 (b). If convicted of that charge a person can be fined and imprisoned for not more than 30 years, or both. The United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York will prosecute the case.

He is a well-known businessman in Canada who founded a bilingual consulting firm. He is also a member of the Economic Council of New Brunswick.

Peter Smith, Special agent in Charge of the Buffalo Office of ICE said, "Traveling to the United States to have sexual relations with a minor is a serious criminal act. ICE Agents are very diligent in enforcing laws which protect our children from sexual predators who use the Internet and other methods to prey on the innocent." Smith pointed out that cases such as this illustrate why ICE started Operation Predator, a world wide enforcement effort aimed at protecting young people from alien smugglers, human traffickers, child pornographers and other sexual predators.

The operation brings to bear a broadest range of law enforcement authorities in the federal government to target those who exploit young people. Children are one of the most important and vulnerable assets to America's homeland. ICE will do everything in its power to protect them. Operation Predator draws on the full spectrum of intelligence, investigative, cyber and detention and removal functions of ICE to target those who exploit children. In a way unachievable before the creation of Homeland Security, ICE is coordinating once - fragmented resources into a united campaign against child predators. The charges that Corno faces are allegations and he is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. He will remain in ICE custody until his initial appearance in United States District Court for the Northern District.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.